

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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66

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 FEA-01 OES-05 EPA-04 CEQ-01 PA-02

PRS-01 USIA-15 EB-07 /048 W
----- 123585

R 301355Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1975

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0203

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

JOHANNESBURG FOR MINERALS ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EIND, SF

SUBJ: OPERATION SBM (SINGLE BUOY MOORING) SWITCH

COMMENCES IN DURBAN

1. OPERATION SBM SWITCH, CHANGE-OVER INSTALLATION OF R1.2 MILLION, 250 TON, SINGLE BUOY MOORING FACILITY--REPLACING CONTROVERSIAL OLD SBM AND CAUSE OF PAST NATAL COAST OIL POLLUTIONS--COMMENCED YESTERDAY. CIRCULAR IN SHAPE, 12 METERS IN DIAMETER AND FITTED WITH 30 TON CRANE, NEW SOPHISTICATED SBM BELIEVED UNSINKABLE SINCE FILLED WITH POLYURETHANE. NEW BUOY EXPECTED TO COMMENCE OIL CHANNELING OPERATIONS NEXT MONTH AT OFF NATAL COAST REUNION LOCATION.

2. ACCORDING TO CAPTAIN PRESTON, WELL-KNOWN SBM EXPERT AND GUEST SPEAKER AT 97TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, DURBAN BRANCH, SAILORS' SOCIETY S.A., SBM IS MOST ECONOMICAL METHOD CRUDE OIL TRANSSHIPMENT. HE PREDICTED THAT U.S., DESPITE PAST OPPOSITION TO SBM BECAUSE OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL DANGERS, WOULD "SOONER OR LATER" ALLOW SUCH OPERATIONS OFF AMERICAN COASTS. HE ADDED THAT 85 PER CENT OF S.A.'S CRUDE OIL
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IMPORTS WERE HANDLED BY DURBAN'S SBM, AMOUNTING TO 9.75

MILLION TONS OF CRUDE OIL IN 1974.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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